

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 MCT-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3045

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1855

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, XX, WB

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. MISSION BELIEVES SECURITY IN EFFECT AT THREE WEST
BERLIN AIRPORTS IS EXCELLENT.

2. THERE ARE THREE AIRPORTS IN WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN:
TEMPELHOF CENTRAL AIRPORT IN AMERICAN SECTOR, GATOW ROYAL
AIR FORCE BASE IN BRITISH SECTOR, AND TEGEL AIRPORT IN
FRENCH SECTOR. THREE WESTERN ALLIES CONTINUE TO EXERCISE
CERTAIN POSTWAR OCCUPATION RIGHTS IN WESTERN SECOTRS OF
BERLIN. AMONG THESE RIGHTS AND REPOSIBILITIES ARE
SECURITY OF CITY AND AVIATION. THUS, IN STRICT SENSE,
THERE IS NO HOST GOVERNMENT IN BERLIN FOR MATTERS
INVOLVING AIRPORT SECURITY. NEVERTHELESS, THREE ALLIES
ARE DEPENDENT ON BERMAN CIVIL AND POLICE AUTHORITIES FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY MEASURES AFFECTING AIRPORTS.

3. TEGEL AIRPORT IN FRENCH SECTOR IS MAIN CIVILIAN AIRPORT
IN BERLIN. IT SERVICES BOTH INNER-GERMAN AND INTERNATIONAL
TRAFFIC (LATTER IS MOSTLH CHARTER). THERE IS SMALL
TERMAINAL ON NORTH SIDE OF AIRPORT WHICH IS USED
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EXCLUSIVELY BY GRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL.

SOUTH SIDE HAS LARGE MODERN TERMAINAL WHICH HANDLES ABOUT FOUR MILLION PASSENGERS PER YEAR. AIRPORT IS HEXAGONAL IN SHAPE. PASSENGERS ENTER HEXAGON FROM CENTER, PASS THROUGH AIRLINE TICKET CONTROLS, AND THEN THROUGH POLICE ID CHECK. EACH POLICE CHECKPOINT HAS DIRECT COMPUTER SERVICE TO CENTRAL CRIMINAL FILE IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC. AFTER THIS ID SCREENING BY PASSENGERS ENTER WAITING LOUNGE UNTIL FLIGHT IS CALLED. THEN EACH PASSENGER IS GIVEN MANUAL AND ELECTRONIC SCREENING BY SECURITY PERSONNEL AS WELL AS INSPECTION OF HAND LUGGAGE. THEREAFTER, HE ENTERS SEALED, COVERED, LOADING BRIDGE WHICH LEADS DIRECTLY TO AIRCRAFT. THIS PROCEDURE DOES NOT PERMIT MINGLING WITH UNSCREENED PERSONS. AIRCRAFT RAMP AT TEGEL IS UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY BERLIN POLICE ON FOOT AND IN ARMORED CARS, WHO ARE ARMED WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS AND EQUIPPED WITH TWO-WAY RADIOS. ARRIVING PASSENGERS ENTER AIRPORT THROUGH CLOSED LOADING BRIDGE; THIS PRECLUDES MINGLING WITH DEPARTING PASSENGERS.

4. ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SECURITY AT TEGEL ARE EXERCISED BY FRENCH WHO HAVE IMPOSED STRICT CONTROLS. IN ADDITION TO SEPARATE PASSENGER WAITING AREAS, OBSERVATION DECK AT TEGEL AIRPORT IS CAREFULLY SECURED. THIS DECK OVERLOOKS LOADING RAMP AND RUNWAYS. ALL PERSONS WISHING TO VISIT OBSERVATION DECK ARE SEARCHED BY HAND AND ELECTRONICALLY BEFORE ENTERING DECK AS IS CASE WITH DEPARTING PASSENGERS. OUTER PERIMETER OF AIRPORT IS SECURED BY BERLIN POLICE AND FRENCH GENDARMERIE.

5. GATOW ROYAL AIR FORCE BASE IS NOT USED FOR CIVIL TRAFFIC OTHER THAN OCCASIONAL CHARTER FLIGHTS FOR DEPENDENTS OF BRITISH SERVICEMEN STATIONED IN BERLIN. SECURITY AT THIS AIRPORT IS RESPONSIBILITY OF BRITISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES. TEMPELHOF CENTRAL AIRPORT SERVES BOTH AS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BASE AND AS ALTERNATE CIVILIAN FACILITY. AT TEMPELHOF, MILITARY PORTION OF FACILITY IS SECURED BY UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. ON CIVIL SIDE OF AIRPORT, PASSENGERS ARE SCREENED IN TERMAINAL, ISOLATED IN WAITING AREAS, AND THEN ESCORTED BY AIRLINE PERSONNEL ONTO RAMP WHERE AIRCRAFT PARKED. ARRIVING PASSENGERS, WHO CROSS SAME RAMP, COULD FORMERLY MINGLE WITH DEPARTING, BUT THIS

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SITUATION NO LONGER OCCURS: TEMPELHOF HAS BEEN ONLY RARELY USED AS CIVILIAN AIRPORT BY LESS THAN ONE CHARTER AIRCRAFT PER DAY SINCE ALL CIVIL TRAFFIC WAS CONCENTRATED AT TEGEL YEAR AGO. FLIGHT LINE IS UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY BERLIN POLICE ON FOOT AND IN ARMORED CARS. POLICE ARE ARMED AND EQUIPPED AS AT TEGEL.

6. AVIATION IN BERLIN OF COURSE IS RESPONSIBILITY OF

ALLIED AUTHORITIES IN BERLIN, THAT IS, FRENCH, BRITISH
AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. CONSEQUENTLY, ON AMERICAN SIDE
WE HAVE ON SCENE AMERICAN FAA REPRESENTATIVE IN PERSON OF
US ADMINISTRATOR FOR AERONAUTICS WHO TAKES DIRECT AND
CONTINUING INTEREST FOR SECURITY OF BERLIN'S AIRPORTS,
PARTICULARLY TEGEL AND TEMPELHOF. MISSION'S PUBLIC
SAFETY ADVISER IS ALSO IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH BERLIN POLICE
AND HSI BRITISH AND FRENCH COUNTERPARTS ON AIRPORT SECURITY MATTERS.

7. EACH WESTERN PROTECTING POWER HAS DRAWN UP DETAILED
CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR USE IN EVENT OF HIJACKING OR OTHER
INCIDENTS. EACH PLAN HAS BEEN EXERCISED WITH FULL
PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND GERMAN POLICE.
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